

Rupornis gularis, Licht. Nomencl. p. 3.

Asturina gularis, Schlegel, Mus. des P.-B. *Asturinae*, p. 4 (1862).

Supra obscure fusca: capite toto cum gutture obscurioribus: pectore et ventre toto cum tibiis pallide fulvis, lineis angustis ferrugineis parce transfasciatis: cauda nigricante, rufo late trivittata et terminata.

Hab. Buenos Ayres (*Schlegel*); Corrientes (*D'Orb.*); Paraguay (*Azara*); Bolivia (*Bridges*); prov. Yungas (*D'Orb.*).

In speaking of his so-called *Astur magnirostris*, *D'Orbiguy* (*l. s. c.*) calls especial attention to the differences between his series of this bird from Corrientes and Bolivia and that in the Paris Museum from Brazil, and concludes that they form "two distinct and constant varieties." We have little doubt that it is to this so-called variety that *Lichtenstein* applied the name *gularis*, afterwards adopted by *Schlegel* in his 'Musée des Pays-Bas.'

But this term must, we think, give way to that of *pucherani*, under which the *MM. Verreaux* described a species of *Asturina* in 1855. A mounted specimen belonging to the Norwich Museum is marked as the original of this description in the handwriting of *M. Jules Verreaux*, and perfectly accords with the characters given. We believe we are correct in referring it to the immature dress of the present species. A nearly similar specimen is in the British Museum, also received from *Verreaux*, under the name *Asturina pucherani*, but with "Guatemala" attached as a locality. This is probably an error, as it does not correspond with any one of our extensive series of the Central-American form, which is *A. ruficauda*.

The only adult example we have yet seen of this bird is in the British Museum. It was obtained in Bolivia by *Bridges*.

7. ASTURINA LEUCORRHOA.

Falco leucorrhous, Q. et G. Voy. Uranie, Zool. p. 91, t. 13.

Nisus leucorrhous, Tsch. F. P. *Aves*, pp. 18, 103.

Asturina leucorrhoea, Bp. Consp. p. 50; *Kaup*, Isis, 1847, p. 199; *Schlegel*, Mus. des P.-B. *Asturinae*, p. 5.

Astur leucorrhous, Pelz. Orn. Bras. p. 7.

Nigra: tectricibus caudalibus supra et subtus albis: tibiis rufis: cauda ad basin alba, inde nigra albo bifasciata.

Hab. Brazil, vic. of Rio (*Mus. Vindob. et S.-G.*); Venezuela (*Dyson in Mus. Brit., et Levaud in Mus. Paris.*); New Granada, Bogota (*Mus. S.-G.*); Peru (*Mus. Berol.*).

4. On the Hybrid between the Chamois and the Domestic Goat. By EDWARD BLYTH.

Upon a recent occasion (*cf. P. Z. S.* 1868, p. 623) I exhibited four pairs of horns which puzzled me exceedingly at first, but which I learn from *Mr. Joseph Wolf* are those of hybrids raised from the



Horns of hybrid Chamois.
 a. Horn of pure Chamois, for comparison.

Chamois and the Domestic Goat. It appears that it is not unusual for a tame buck Chamois to interbreed with domestic she-Goats; and as the horns of the hybrid so produced are so remarkable that they might well be suspected to indicate some undescribed species, intermediate to the Chamois and the Himalayan Thar (*Hemitragus jemlaicus*), I now submit a photograph of the series, considering the figures to be quite worthy of publication, in order to prevent, if possible, any mistake of the kind. For comparison, the horn of a pure Chamois (a) is placed along with them.

February 25, 1869.

W. H. Flower, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

A letter was read from E. L. Layard, Esq., F.Z.S., dated Cape Town, December 31st, 1868, enclosing a drawing of another species of Ribbonfish (*Gymnetrus*), which had come ashore in rather a bad state at Simon's Bay on the 23rd of December, 1865, and been drawn on the spot by P. D. Martin, Esq. Mr. Layard believed it to be perfectly distinct from the species mentioned in a former communication to the Society (P. Z. S. 1868, p. 319), and could not find any description that answered to it.

The Secretary exhibited specimens of some Reptiles which had been collected for the Society's Menagerie by Mr. George Wilks, of Buenos Ayres, C.M.Z.S., but had, unfortunately, died before reaching their destination. They consisted of two Snakes taken *in copulá*, which had been determined by Dr. Günther to be *Coronella anomala*, Günth. (Cat. of Snakes, p. 57), and some specimens of a small Cayman (*Jacare ocellata*, Gray).

Mr. J. E. Harting called the attention of the Meeting to the steps

now being taken to protect Sea-fowl during the breeding-season, and stated that it was proposed to bring in an Act of Parliament on the subject during the present session.

The following papers were read:—

1. Notes on the mode of Capture of Elephants in Assam.

By DR. A. CAMPBELL, late Superintendent of Darjeeling.

By far the greater number of the Elephants for the supply of the Bengal markets are now caught in Assam; the Dooars of Bootan are so iniquitously misgoverned that the Elephant-catchers nearly shun them altogether.

The Nipal Tarai furnishes Elephants for the marts of the central and western provinces; Mymensingh and Sylhet for lower Bengal, &c. &c.

The people who are principally engaged in catching Elephants for upper Bengal live in the northern parts of the Purneah and Rungpoor districts. Titalya is the most central position for the collection of Elephants by these people, and it is close to all the routes from the Elephant-catching districts*.

The Elephant-merchants who conduct the trade between the eastern districts and other parts of India come from the central and western provinces; some even from the Punjab, Cashmere, and Cabool.

The men who keep koonkis and supply the funds for catching Elephants are known as "Keda Walas." They often take their own Elephants for sale to the Hajipoor Fair, or further west; but usually look to the merchants, zemindars, baboos, &c. of their own districts as purchasers. At the Nek Mured Fair, in the Dinajpoor district, annually held in April, there is a good deal of business done in Elephants.

An Elephant-catcher (or keda wala)'s establishment consists—1st, of "Koonkis," *i. e.* tame Elephants trained to hunting and catching wild ones; 2nd, "Phanaitis," or noosemen; 3rd, Lohattias, or Elephant-drivers, who sit on the croup and urge on the koonkis with an iron-spiked mallet; 4th, mates, or under drivers; and 5th, an abundant supply of ropes and cables for catching and tying up their gigantic quarry.

The old system of decoying or driving wild Elephants on pits dug for them is altogether exploded; and the lasso, or "phan," is the only mode now employed to catch them.

The process is described as sufficiently simple, although it is attended with some danger. It is very extraordinary to hear a thin miserable-looking fellow (as many of the "phanaitis" are) describing in the quietest way possible how he has caught very large and fierce Elephants.

The usual mode seems to be to form the "keda," or encampment,

* See Hooker's Himalayan Journals, vol. i. p. 181.